

Saluting Our Families

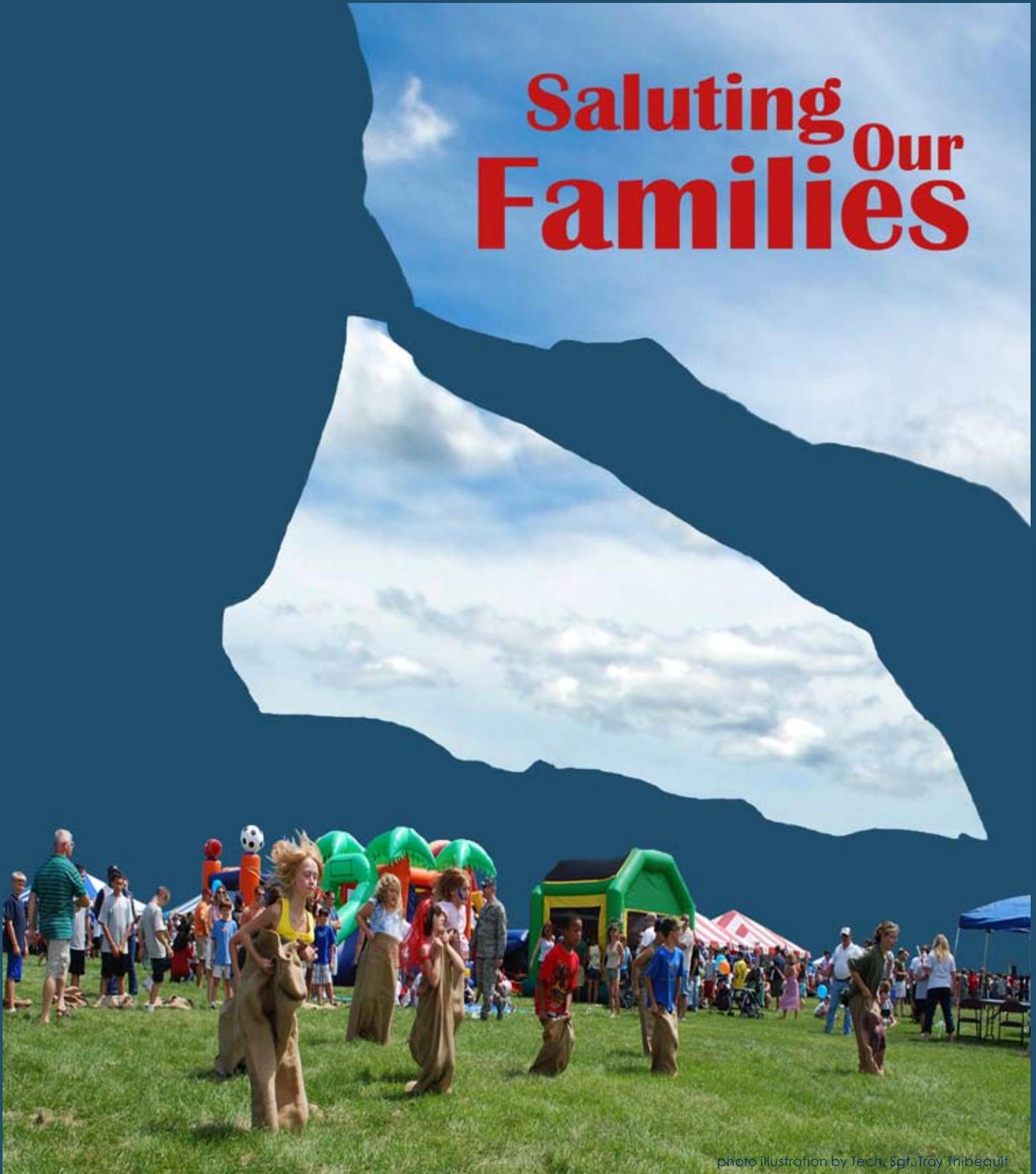


photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Troy Thibeault

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UTA SNAPSHOT |

SATURDAY

337th AS change-of-command: 9 a.m., Westover Conference Center.

439th Maintenance Group change-of-command: 10:30 a.m., fuel cell Hangar.

Club meals (both days): Breakfast, 6 a.m.-7:15 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. dinner, 5-7 p.m.

SUNDAY

439th AES change-of-command: 2 p.m., conference center.

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ON THE COVER >> Hundreds of reservists and their families gathered on the Base Ellipse Aug. 8 to enjoy Family Day. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for photos and stories.



GOING GREENE >> Staff Sgt. Erwin Greene, 58th Aerial Port Squadron, enjoys time with his son, Jarel and daughter Lanaya, during the August Family Day held at the Base Ellipse. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



Major Jusseume

Many respondents to February's wing-wide climate survey said surveys are a waste of time. Well, not this time. You were heard -- and more importantly -- wing leadership is already implementing changes based on the feedback. More than 900 people took

the survey, a 45 percent response rate.

That is outstanding for a survey, and it showed you care. The good news is our survey results overall were great, and showed our climate was better than the average Air Force or military organization. I wanted to share how the wing is responding.

- Many said they wanted the survey results to be available to everyone. Results are available on the base network drive at Y:\000 - MEO Climate Survey Results. Squadron Commanders were also provided with results specific to their unit.

- To address the fear of reprisal concern, the Inspector General has ensured that commanders and supervisors were trained regarding the definition of reprisal. An article was published in the Patriot about what reprisal means and why it is illegal.

- Base support agencies, such as the Inspector General, Equal Opportunity (EO), the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, and the Chaplain, have also worked hard to ensure you realize they are a resource and every individual has a right to their services. EO is developing a pocket-size, quick reference Base Referral Guide that will outline all of the referral services available on and off base.

- The most disenfranchised group in the survey was junior NCOs.

They gave the lowest scores in areas like "Trust in Organization" and "Organizational Commitment." This is reflected by the fact 50 percent of first-term Airmen don't re-enlist.

The wing addressed this by creating the Operation Keep One program. Col. Robert Swain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, and Wing Command Chief Zigmund Skawski meet with first-term Airmen as well as all Reservists coming up for re-enlistment. They are not waiting for an exit survey, when it is too late to address the reason someone is leaving.

- Colonel Swain has also held several town meetings and Airmen breakfasts so that he can get additional feedback from the various demographic groups around the base and address concerns face-to-face.

- Public Affairs and the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) are improving communication, especially in providing the "big picture" of what is going on here and in AFRC.

For example, PA wrote a three-part series on base transformation.

- To address concerns about promotions, force development and on-the-job training, the wing leadership placed additional focus on this year's Performance Enhancement Packages. The wing went from zero PEPs last year to four this year.

Additionally, the theme for this year's Westover Enlisted Career Workshop held in June was "I am a Leader," and it included a workshop that addressed the structure of Enlisted Force Development and they focused on the fact that we are all leaders and we are all accountable. Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback on the survey. We'll keep you posted as the wing continues to respond to survey feedback

You were heard! I encourage you to continue being heard. Get involved with organizations like HRDC, the Rising Six, the Top 3, the Company Grade Officers' Council, etc.

Speak up if you don't feel like you are getting the information you need over the UTA. Your chiefs, first sergeants, commanders, and all the support agencies, such as EO, are here to serve you and respond to your needs.

**Maj. Jennifer Jusseume
Chief, Military Equal
Opportunity Office**

BRIEFS |

C-5 tire mishap

The 439th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Robert R. Swain Jr., launched an investigation into a July 23 mishap, involving a Westover C-5 that dropped two tires in an uninhabited wooded area in Belchertown, Mass.

The incident happened during a routine training flight. No injuries or property-damage occurred.

CFC kickoff

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will start Sept. 29 at 7:30 a.m. with a kickoff breakfast at the Westover Club.

CFC officials will also host a runway road race on Oct. 3 at 9:30 a.m. This year's campaign goal is \$40,000. It wraps up Dec. 15.

For more information, call Maj. John McSpadden at Ext. 3623.

Big E to honor military Sept. 18

The Eastern States Exposition, locally known as the "Big E," will hold a Military a Day and Veterans' Appreciation Day Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission is free for all military members and veterans and their immediate families with proof of military IDs.

Reservists who would like to march in the parade at 5 p.m. Sept. 18, should report to the Big E by 4 p.m. to form up. Big E officials said that reservists marching in the parade will not be charged the \$5 parking fee.

More information is available by clicking on www.thebige.com

Changes of command set for UTA

Three changes of command will take place on the September A UTA.

Lt. Col. John Healy will assume command of the 337th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. Patrick Cloutier at 9 a.m. Sept. 12 in the wing conference center.

Lt. Col. William Kountz will take command of the 439th Maintenance Group at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 12 in the fuel cell hangar.

Col. Charles Tupper will turn command of the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to Col. Adele Hill at 2 p.m. Sept. 13 in the wing conference center.

Ribbon-cutting

The Pioneer Valley Federal Credit Union will hold a ribbon-cutting at its new base branch Sept. 9 at 3 p.m..

The new branch's location is 651 Hangar Avenue (the former security forces building).

For more information about the federal Credit Union visit www.pioneervalley.coop, or contact them by phone at (413) 733-2800.

Traffic change

Crews are modifying the traffic pattern at the Base Shoppette parking lot to reduce traffic congestion and increase pedestrian safety. The lot will have one-way traffic to enter and exit. This will result in one entrance into the parking lot, and two exits out of the parking lot.



AMP'D IN >> A Patriot Wing C-5B Galaxy taxis after a training flight. The last of the Patriot Wing's C-5s received its Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) and returned to Westover from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 25. The near two-year project involved extensive training for Westover's aircrews and maintainers. (File photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

AMP upgrade added to last Patriot Wing C-5

by Capt. Justin Manna

The final 439th Airlift Wing C-5 completed the Avionics Modernization Program upgrade on August 25 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and returned to Westover the same day to rejoin ongoing world-wide operations. The arrival of the "AMP'd" aircraft marks the end of an almost two-year effort to upgrade all Air Force C-5s.

The C-5 AMP is a comprehensive upgrade program of legacy aircraft's onboard navigation, communication and safety components. This three-month per-aircraft process includes replacing old analog displays with flat-screen technology to decrease aircrew workload and increase operational safety.

"The old instrumentation isn't as reliable as it used to be," said Chief Master Sgt. James T. Mitchell, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight chief. "The AMP will bring us into the future."

Reliability isn't the only C-5 capability enhancement. Aircrew safety is also greatly improved under AMP. "Most people think it's a great step forward," said Lt. Col. Michael Smith, 439th Safety Officer. "AMP is very similar to

"AMP is very similar to the Pegasus system used on the Boeing 757 commercial aircraft and commonality between the two improves safety through familiarity because a lot of our pilots also fly for commercial airlines."

--Lt. Col. Michael Smith, 439th AW
safety officer

the Pegasus system used on the Boeing 757 commercial aircraft and commonality between the two improves safety through familiarity because a lot of our pilots also fly for commercial airlines," said Colonel Smith.

In addition to familiarity, the AMP system also offers improvements to ergonomic design and navigational abilities. "Instead of having to scan a wider area of the control panel where airspeed

is in one location and altitude in another, everything is located on a 12-by-12 area on a flat-screen panel," said Colonel Smith. "AMP also provides a better picture of where we are by plotting courses right on the screen."

The next step in the C-5 modernization effort will be the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engineering Program. RERP's centerpiece upgrade is the addition of General Electric F138-GE-100 turbofan engines.

These new engines provide higher thrust, improved reliability and increased efficiency versus the legacy C-5 engines.

Upon completion of both the AMP and RERP processes, the C-5 will be re-designated a "C-5M." The Air Force plans to upgrade 52 C-5s to C-5Ms by 2016.

Post-9/11 GI Bill helps reservists with college

The Post-9/11 GI Bill process is as follows for those Airmen who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit:

-- Reservists should apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit first via the Department of Veterans Affairs website. Once the application is processed by the VA, the Airman will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). The COE will state the exact number of months the member is entitled to

transfer and the rate they will be paid. Apply at: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Post-911.htm

-- Once the COE is received, the member should apply for transferability using the TEB website, the member will have to check back on that site to see the status of their application (i.e., approved, disapproved, pending review, etc.).

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>

-- Once the transferability application has been approved, the dependent must go to the VA website to complete a VA Form 22-1990e to apply for the benefit.

The link is: http://gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Transfer.htm

The Post-9/11 GI Bill began its operation this summer, when benefits went into effect for reservists.

It represents a change from the Montgomery GI Bill in that service members were reimbursed for costs after the initial tuition payment by the member.

Now, the VA pays the tuition directly to the school in order to limit or eliminate the service member's need to pay up-front costs. For more information, call the base education and training office at Ext. 2042.

New squadron commanders join base leadership



TAKING COMMAND >> Lt. Col. Michael Buoniconti talks to members of his squadron following the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron change of command Aug. 9. Colonel Buoniconti took over for Lt. Col. Edward Miller, who in turn took command of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, held Aug. 8. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)



TWO IN ONE >> After relinquishing LRS command, Lt. Col. Edward Miller addresses members of the 42nd APS, following the squadron's change of command on the flight line Aug. 9. Colonel Miller took command from Lt. Col. (Col.-select) John Greene. (photo by Staff Sgt. Hueming Mui)



"My favorite part was the bouncy houses."

-- Kara Ajalat, 5, daughter of Lt. Col. Casey Ajalat, 439th Mission Support Group



"My favorite part of the picnic was the food."

Josh Perreault, son of Master Sgt. Elaine Perreault, 439th Airlift Wing command section



"My favorite part was the bouncy houses too."

Dustin Paradis, son of Master Sgt. Bruce Paradis, 439th Maintenance Squadron

FAMILY TALK | What was your favorite part of Family Day?



**Family
support**



photos by 439th AW Public Affairs staff

Patriot Wing thanks its own

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing members took a "half day" Aug. 8 to spend time with their families at the Base Ellipse to enjoy food, spirited volleyball rallies, a chance to send a senior member plummeting into a dunk tank, hay rides around the ellipse, and much more.

The 439th Airlift Wing senior leadership began Family Day shortly after noon with recognition recent wing retirees. Col. Robert R. Swain Jr., 439th AW commander, presented a certificate to each of the retirees.

Family Day got under way under ideal weather conditions with bounce houses, volleyball games, a dunk tank and other fun -- all in a new setting that one organizer said offered a better venue than previous Family Days.

In all, an estimated 4,000 family members joined their reservists for Family Day.

"This has been excellent," said Chief Master Sgt. Earl Duncan, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant and a member of the Chiefs' Council.

continued on page 8



FAMILY FACES >> Family Day face painting was among the many activities offered Aug. 8 on the Base Ellipse. Nearly 4,000 family members and reservists attended the event. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

continued from page 7

“The Base Ellipse is centrally located. And the kids are like magnets -- they see things going on and they want to go and do them,” he said.

Arriving early in the morning to assist in setting up the cooking and serving stations, almost 100 Galaxy Community Council members, their wives, children and friends worked with volunteers from the Pioneer Valley USO, Civil Air Patrol and several other organizations.

They prepared and served 1,320 hamburgers, 1,280 hot dogs, 760 sausages, and 672 chicken breasts to nearly 4,000 Westover members and their guests, said Bill Sheehan, Galaxy member.

Forty-one children of reservists experienced some of what their parents do when they joined a mock deployment line Aug. 8.

The “deployment” to “Kinder Air Base” included identification cards, and deployed “ranks” at the Dogpatch training area. It was among the highlights of the Family Day events.

“I think the day was a great success. It seemed like all the families had a very nice time,” Colonel Swain said. “I look forward to us hosting another Family Day in the future.”

Westover community serves its families

Westover hosts a Family Day picnic every two years, but the wing seeks to serve Reserve families every day, every year.

The following is a sampling of wing resources available to Reserve families:

Airman and Family Readiness Center
Comm: 413-557-3024, contact Andrea Bowen, M-F, 8-4, A UTA weekends and B weekend Saturday

- Information and referral: a one-stop-shop for federal, state and local aid/support agencies from veteran services to daycare providers to job placement to scholarship information.

- Topical workshops throughout the year
- Deployment support
- Children’s parties

Chaplain’s Section:
Comm: 413-557-3031, staffed on A and B UTAs, and by appointment through Ext. 3031 or 3024

Provides services for various faiths on UTA weekends and faith-based support and/or counsel

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Comm: 413-557-2623, contact Maj. Car-

rie Baker
Office staffed M-F, 7 – 4:30, or emergency contact 24/7

- Provide support and referral services for sexual assault situations

Behavioral Health Support Coordination

Comm: 413-557-2623, contact Major Baker

Provide referral information regarding addiction, family/marriage counseling, individual counseling (anger management, relationships, depression, stress, bereavement...)

Family Advisory Board
Contact Andrea Bowen (413-557-3024) or Major Baker (Ext. 2623) or any base agency.

- Utilizes a professional team of base agencies like Airman and Family Readiness, Chaplain, Security Forces, Legal, etc. to promote prevention and early intervention, provide effective and accessible services for well being and safety of military families. Examples include domestic violence, special needs, child neglect or abuse.



VOLLEY ON THE ELLIPSE >> David Carbin, 439th Maintenance Squadron, knocks the volleyball back over the net during the Wing Volleyball Tournament held Aug. 8 on the Base Ellipse. MXS came in second to the 58th Aerial Port Squadron by the end of the tournaments. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

Aerial porters top Commander's Cup volleyball

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Intense and spirited volleyball competitions – held in ideal weather conditions on Westover's Base Ellipse Aug. 8 – yielded three top winners.

Members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron took first place in the Wing Family Day Volleyball Tournament, followed by the 439th Maintenance Squadron and the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Team captain Michael Downs led the 58th team, which also consisted of Careyann Patterson, Kevin Kroyman, Bill Cargile, Jorge Maldonado, David Dugre,

and John Archambeau.

"The past few years we have come close to winning; so this year myself and some of the previous team

members were determined to win the tournament," Downs said.

"The 58th squadron members love to compete in base activi-

ties, especially team sports. So at squadron formation, I announced that we were competing and that we were going to win the tournament. As it turned out we made it to the finals without a loss ... fortunately for us we were able to secure a victory based on great team play and brought the trophy back to the squadron and fulfill the promise I made earlier."

Other teams that participated included AMXS, MOS, MSS, and the 439th Wing Staff.

The volleyball competition also served as the monthly theme for the year-long Commander's Cup, which concludes in November.

Commander's Cup unit standings

Security forces	118
Aircraft Maintenance.....	109
58th APS.....	109
42nd APS	49
Mission Support	43
Maintenance	38
Services	26
Maintenance operations	6
Aerospace medicine	5
AW Staff	1
Logistics readiness	1

Airman attends Tuskegee Convention

by Tech. Sgt. Desmond Farrell

The 38th Annual National convention for the Tuskegee Airmen, was held in Las Vegas this year. This was the first time I attended one of their conventions and I really did not know what to expect. The next two days however, made me wonder why I had not known about the previous conventions.

The history that was there was not just that of the Tuskegee Airmen survivors, but Air Force history as well. The link between what was then the Army Air Corps and what is now the Air Force.

The tradition of maintaining air supremacy then, with the Tuskegee Airmen as part of the 332nd Fighter Group establishing a legacy of not losing a single escorted bomber in over 200 combat missions, and now with the technology exhibited with the F-22 and the new F-35 and the skilled pilots that fly them and all the other

aircraft in our arsenal. Their history is also ours because they too answered their nation's call, they flew, fought, and won.

They helped to establish the heritage, honor and the valiant legacy that we today cherish so much. Their history is like our own because they overcame obstacles and broke down barriers to triumph in the face of adversity as Americans have always done.

Where theirs is different is that they held the weight of a race on their shoulders. They couldn't fail because they were expected to fail. The Tuskegee Airmen Convention had something for everyone. Officers, enlisted, civilian, male, female, adults, teenagers and children all were represented at this event and all had something to contribute as well. Events there included Senior Leadership Panels, Enlisted Panel, Women of the Military Forum, Award ceremonies and even a pin-on ceremony for a brigadier general.

There were also events that catered to the young people as well, that included a tour of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., luncheon with the military and some of the surviving Tuskegee Airmen, a scholarship award ceremony and a forum that included speeches, presentations, question and answer sessions with original Tuskegee Airmen.

There were many other reasons why I enjoyed the convention, but the most thrilling was getting to meet all the people -- those from other bases that I probably never would have met -- but especially the Tuskegee Airmen who always had a word of encouragement, a story to tell, and who always had a smile, which did not say "we came, we saw, we conquered." It instead said, "we persevered, we overcame, we triumphed."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sergeant Farrell is assigned to the 439th Communications Squadron.

BRIEFS |

Lottery winner

A Westover maintenance reservist recently won \$1 million in the Massachusetts State Lottery.

Master Sgt. Scott Hoyt, 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron, won the prize Aug. 18.

Sergeant Hoyt has served in the military for more than 29 years, and has been assigned to Westover since 1988.

Patriot deadline

The end of the preceding A UTA is the monthly deadline for the *Patriot*.

For example, articles and photos to be submitted for the November edition, need to be sent to the wing public affairs staff by the end of the October A UTA.

For more information, e-mail PA at 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil

Aerial port to deactivate

The 85th Aerial Port Squadron, the 439th Airlift Wing's geographically-separated unit, is scheduled to deactivate Sept. 13.

Activated in June 1960, the 85th APS is assigned to Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Senior leadership with the 85th APS will deactivate the unit at 2 p.m. at Hanscom.

The 85th APS is one of three aerial port squadrons assigned to the 439th AW. Its reservists will eventually join the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons assigned at Westover.

CGOC's annual duathlon sets out Sept. 12



LACING UP >> The Third Annual Company Grade Officers' Council Duathlon is set for Sept. 12 (Saturday of the UTA) and will consist of a three-component run and bike competition. Registration takes place at the fitness center at 5 p.m. The duathlon begins at 5:30 p.m. and will consist of a 1-mile run, an 8-mile bike ride, and concludes with another 1-mile run. Entry donation fee is \$5 per member and \$10 per team. Proceeds go to the Annual CGOC Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 1st Lt. Susan Weis at Ext. 3127. (File photo by Staff Sgt. Timm Huffman)

PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Nick Schneider

NAME: NICK SCHNEIDER
AGE: 11
HOMETOWN: SCHENECTADY, N.Y.
WHAT DOES YOUR PARENT DO AT WESTOVER: WORKS ON C-5s
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP: A SCIENTIST OR ENGINEER
FAVORITE PART OF FAMILY DAY PICNIC: THE FLIGHT SIMULATOR
FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: MATH
FAVORITE WEEKEND ACTIVITY: VIDEO GAMES AND FOOTBALL
FAVORITE FOOD: PIZZA
FAVORITE SPORT: FOOTBALL
BEST SUMMER VACATION: WHEN I WENT TO MISSISSIPPI
FAVORITE THING TO DO: PLAY FOOTBALL
PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT: VIDEO GAMES (PS3)
FAVORITE HERO: BATMAN
BAND: AC/DC
MOVIE: TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN
AIRCRAFT: F-22
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1 MILLION: BUY A HOUSE AND A COOL CAR

HEALTH AT THE CLUB >> The Westover Club offers a healthy option to its lunch menu, the soup and salad bar. Enjoy the soup and salad bar by itself or in addition to the pasta or taco bar (Mondays and Tuesdays). On Fridays, the soup and salad bar is included with the Seafood buffet, but it is also available separately. The soup and salad bar is \$1 when added to the pasta and taco bar, and \$3.95 when sold separately. Information, Ext. 2039.

MASSAGE CENTER >> Massages are available at the fitness center. Enjoy a 60-minute Swedish massage for \$40 or a 30-minute back Massage for \$30. New classes, including wellness, basic strength, sun salutation yoga and cardio-strength are available. Information: Ext. 3958.

LAWN CARE >> Get everything you need for your end of the year lawn care projects. The outdoor recreation staff has various tools including the hedge trimmer, weed eater, power head, edger, leaf blower, log splitter and more. Make your reservations by calling Ext. 2192.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

Retirements

Maj. Diane S. Baynon

**Master sergeant
 Charles F. Darling
 Francis W. Hogan
 Gary M. Weber**

Tech. Sgt. Robert A. Leduc



PATRIOT PRAISES | Reenlistments, promotions

PEPs
Master sergeant
 Terri Dionne
 Dana Seddon
 Chrissy Manning
 Tech. Sgt. Christopher Houde

Lieutenant colonel
 William Gonzalez
 Andreas Hau
 John McSpadden
 Elizabeth Ryder
 Raymond Smioth
 Kristin P. Messer
 Deborah A. Fuller
 Linda M. Reichler

Stephen Taylor
 Wesley Thiel
 Adam Vernadakis

Reenlistments
Chief Master Sgt. Dennis J Leydet

Senior master sergeant
 Randy J. Bates
 Ann M. Cartelli
 Constance M. Cullen
 James M. Doherty
 Dawn S. Schile
 Nelson A. Serrao

Master sergeant
 Michael S. Duma

Jason A. George
 Kathleen A. Kratochvil
 Keith R. Lossonde
 Sarah A. Moriarty
 Quinn D. Moriarty
 David A. Page
 Scott W. Parker
 Wayne A. Rehnberg
 Lori L. St Lous
 Brian Shameklis
 Kennan L. Steiger
 David F. Wilson
 Maida Yeh

Technical sergeant
 Audrey A. Agli

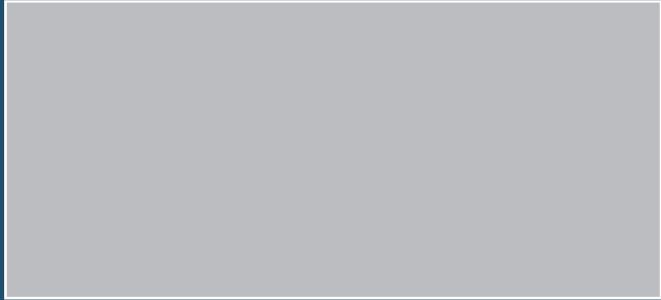
Seth K. Baldwin
 Thomas J. Batchelor
 Jon N. Bissonnette
 William F. Brenner
 Charles D. Cognato
 Eric Paul Dibrindisi
 Royanne L. Emerson
 Nelson Espada
 Desmond E. Farrell
 Brandon G. Floyd
 Edward C. Francoeur
 James J. Fydenkevez
 Kevin L. Gathers
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FIRST CLASS
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Published monthly for Patriots like Elijah Griffiths, son of Staff Sgt. Glenn Griffiths, and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.



BOLT FROM THE BLUE >> Staff Sgt. Daniel Gay, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, photographed this lightning near the flight line in August. Photographers are invited to submit their photos to the *Patriot*. They may be e-mailed to: 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil. The *Patriot* may be viewed on line at www.westover.afrc.af.mil.

-- Photo selection of the month --